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Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo-fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the **Dutch Haven** windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo-fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo-fly pie has even been mentioned in a TIME magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked

annually, using the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, Amish pine furniture and cedar

chests, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Dutch Delft tiles, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, metal stars, Tiffany lamps, Amish romance novels, framed prints, plenty of T-shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish-made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish-style root beer in the barrel.

Remember, Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week, Sunday–Thursday, 9 AM–7 PM and Friday and Saturday 9 AM–9 PM. For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill for this truly is the place that made shoo-fly pie famous. 





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A Pie for Everyone...A Pie for Everyday

Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies

Make TODAY Delicious!

The History of Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies

By Leroy King (*Zook's Proprietor*)

We all have had those unforgettable moments when the world seems to come to a screeching halt, time stops for a moment and years later, maybe even for the rest of your life, you still recall where you were, what you were doing and who you were with at that precise time. Think September 11th, 2001 and you will probably know exactly what I am talking about.

However as you well know, it is not always an event that affects a whole nation that causes such a reaction. We also can experience more private unforgettable moments.

One such moment for me was the day I first tasted a Zook's Homemade Chicken Pie. I remember it like it was yesterday, even though it took place almost 20 years ago. I was working at the Farmer's Market in Newtown, PA, and had not been feeling well that day, when a lovely young co-worker came up to me and said she had a chicken pie that I absolutely needed to taste. "No thanks," I said. "I don't feel well, I'm not hungry, and quite frankly chicken pie just doesn't sound good right now at all."

Well, knowing that she had some exceptionally good food in her hands and probably having heard from her PA Dutch heritage the old saying, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach," she pleaded until I agreed to take a bite. One bite did it! The world screeched to a halt, time stood still and well, you get the picture. I looked at this young lady and said, "WOW! That is good. Where can I get some more?"

Turns out her family had started making these pies as a way to use up chicken they had



left over from market. And this was only the first of many pies that she has served me, though the menu now includes not only chicken, but beef pie, and more recently sausage pies as well. You see, I married that young lady a few years later. And almost 12 years ago, we were blessed with the opportunity to take over the family's meat pie making business.

Even though the business has expanded to accommodate the over 200 stores and markets that now carry the Zook's pies, the recipe stays the same. Chunky pieces of meat and wholesome vegetables in mouthwatering gravy, all baked into a flaky and delicious, made from scratch pie crust is still the order for each one of the Zook's pies made today.

You can find these pies at many of the PA Dutch Farmers Markets in eastern PA, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey, and also in some local stores. Our retail store is located about 1½ miles southwest of Intercourse at 3194 Harvest Drive, Ronks, PA, where you will find not only meat pies, but our own homemade apple dumplings, as well as an assortment of local canned goods including pickles, beets, chowchow, applesauce, local grown peaches, jams and jellies and more.

Our pies and apple dumplings can be bought frozen or just refrigerated. We have insulated bags and ice packs to keep your purchase cold while traveling. Remember, we don't have a restaurant and we don't serve the pies hot.

To place an order or with questions on how to find us, you can call 717.768.0239, but you will probably need to leave a message. The retail store is open 8-5 on weekdays and 8-4 Saturdays. We're closed Sundays. 



By Clinton Martin

Over 20 years ago, visitors to Amish Country would have experienced chicken pot pie as a hearty stew, more like a chicken and dumplings soup than a meat pie in a crust creation. That style of PA Dutch pot pie is still available locally. But these past two decades have truly transformed the local taste for "pot pie." It's all part of the amazing success story of Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies.

Today, the bakery is a busy flurry of activity, with both family, friends and neighbors working at Zook's, offering a testament to the unyielding work ethic of the Plain People. Four different pies are baked at Zook's. Expanding on the Chicken Pies that started it all are Beef Pies, Sausage Pies, and Vegetable Pies. The vegetable pies are not vegan or vegetarian, but they do offer a no-meat alternative. The sausage pies use local Stoltzfus Sausage, produced literally less than five miles from Zook's.

Also new from the Zook's "R&D" kitchen is a colossal, sweet and tart apple dumpling made from scratch on site. Noodles, pickles, jams, jellies, and fruits are also sold at Zook's. Truly, you can now pick up a complete meal to take home. Select a few pies as the main course, and then add the tempting apple dumplings for a grand dessert.



This is one locally inspired, delicious apple dumpling, a traditional PA Dutch delicacy that works well as a breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert treat. It's especially good served warm with milk or ice cream!

Whether it is the meat pies or apple dumplings, the hard work of the family has certainly paid off as fans of Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies have continued to grow in large number year after year. What started out almost as a local curiosity has expanded its borders to include customers from virtually every State in the US, and even a few international visitors as well. (Leroy King, Zook's proprietor, recalls a family of Australians stocking the fridge of their RV for a week-long trek across the Country.)

So, how does a meat pie & apple dumpling bakery without a restaurant, selling fresh or frozen meat pies and apple dumplings to take home, make such an impression?

It is all about the flavor. Everything is made from scratch. Raw ingredients like flour, milk, and a few other country kitchen standbys (I can't give away the whole recipe of course!) arrive in sacks, and the cooks, with focused dedication, combine and mix to create the crust. Rest assured, there are no frozen from-the-box crusts at Zook's! The golden brown flaky crust is both delicious to eat, and fun to watch gently warm in the oven. Leroy recommends using an oven to heat up the pies for the dinner table, as a microwave (while still an option) doesn't give the pies that grand crisped edge on the crust like a good dose of convection.

After the crust has been rolled out and tucked into a little tin pie-plate, the filling comes next. Whether it is the Chicken, Beef, or Sausage pies, the cooks are sure to sprinkle in generous cuts of moist and juicy meat, not ground up but purposefully left in beautiful chunks of savory protein. Of course, a variety of vegetables are swirled in with the meats, starring a cast of potatoes, carrots and onions. Holding it all together is a not-too-salty, not-too-plain gravy.

All the pies come in various sizes, and the apple dumplings in singles, doubles, etc. so you can feed your family, or indulge only yourself. Every day but Monday both fresh and frozen pies are available so you can pick up one to eat that day and one to stow away for later. On Mondays, only frozen pies are available.

Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies welcomes visitors to their retail shop, which is an annex on the side of the bake house. Parking is available, although visitors in cars are asked not to park in front of the hitching posts which are reserved for local Amish customers arriving in horse-drawn buggies. The store is open Monday through Saturday, closed Sundays and religious holidays. 



Early in the morning, in the heart of Amish Country, workers arrive at Zook's to prepare for the making of delicious meat pies.

GETTING THERE:

Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies is located just southwest of the village of Intercourse. Take Old Leacock Road south off Route 340, and turn right on Harvest Drive. You'll immediately see the sign and store entrance. For GPS, use 3194 Harvest Drive, Ronks, PA. Zook's is not open on Sundays. Call 717.768.0239 for hours or other locations pies are available.

How a Zook Becomes a Cook



A great pie needs a great crust, which begins, of course, with flour.



It's time to start mixing the pie crust ingredients.



A block of shortening is cut to marry with the flour.



But you can pick up your pies at the Zook's bakery store, right where the pies are made, along with other local canned foods, noodles, apple dumplings, etc.



At last you have "baked off" your pie, ready to dig into the flaky crust and yummy meat and vegetables awaiting your taste buds. Bon Amish Appetit!



The pie crust dough is perfectly blended together in the mixer.



A day at work means a lot of pies for hungry Zook pie enthusiasts, and many pies will be shipped to Farmers Markets and Specialty Stores.



Everything is combined to prepare the signature Zook's pie for baking.



Pots and boiling water are needed to combine the chicken stock and the vegetables for the tasty pie "filling."

FOOD & FUN ALL AROUND LANCASTER

Cackleberry Farm – Antique Destination

By Brad Igou

Lancaster County has long been a mecca for antique lovers and collectible hunters. But some antique destinations are open on a limited basis, often only on Sundays. However, right in the heart of Amish Country, you will find Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall, celebrating its 21st year, open every day of the week but Tuesday.

Conveniently located in Paradise (where else?), on Route 30 at 3371 Lincoln Highway East, seven miles east of Rockvale Outlets, a real plus is that everything is under one roof in a 26,000 square foot climate controlled building. Here you will discover merchandise from over 125 dealers.

In addition to plenty of free parking, Cackleberry is handicapped accessible, all on one floor, with shopping carts and baskets available, and even a 1950's style rest area for a light snack. And you just might want something to snack on because you'll need plenty of time to explore it all.

Continued on Page 8.



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COUNTRY INN of LANCASTER

Almost 90 Years Later, Anna Miller's Famous Smorgasbord is Hard to Match

By Clinton Martin

Miller's Smorgasbord traces its roots back to 1929, when the restaurant was more of a truck stop. Mr. Miller fixed trucks, and Mrs. Miller fixed something to eat. Her specialty was chicken and waffles, and my how the word spread. Soon, trucks began miraculously "breaking down" along Lancaster's Lincoln Highway, never too far from Miller's.

Today's Miller's Smorgasbord does more than honor the surname of the founders. Chicken & Waffles remain a constant on the buffet sampled by most visitors, but the scores of other items on this highest-of-quality buffets garner accolades just as often.

Miller's Smorgasbord offers various ways to dine, but among the buffet options, there is the Traditional Smorgasbord which is what I invariably choose. However, the Soup, Salad, and Bread buffet is wonderful and competitively priced, but just a bit too limited for my meat-minded self.

On my recent visit, I headed for the carving stations, where there were three meats temptingly on display, a slow-roasted juicy roast beef, and deeply flavorful turkey and ham counterparts. To test the man with the knife's carving skills I graciously accepted a slice of each. Wow, and with fabulous horseradish sauce, somehow I was able to slowly enjoy every bite.

Along with vegetables and other hot entrees, I finished off my plate and decided to do my salads second! And there was quite a selection, from lettuce and spinach to seafood and chicken salad. But then I spotted a gorgeous plate of cream cheese with local pepper jam slathered on top. This was meant for spreading on breads, crackers, whatever. It was truly amazing in taste, and a treat I had never seen on a Lancaster County buffet before.

I also rounded out my plate with a bowl of soup. It was hard to choose from eight (yes, eight homemade soups), but I chose the ham and bean, a local Lancaster County favorite.

But for me personally, my favorite item on Miller's buffet is the Swedish Meatballs. The flavor packed into these seemingly, but far from, lowbrow meatballs is incredible, with just the right amount of sauce cradling the finely ground and perfectly round meat.

Seeing as I needed to provide ravenous readers with full coverage of the Miller's experience, I went for dessert. I had nearly forgotten how many pies, cakes, and puddings

Miller's has, but it was the baked spiced apple that I had missed the most. I made a pie ala mode with a slice of coconut cream pie, where the ice cream was replaced by the sweet syrupy apple.

I know you'll enjoy your own meal and discover your own favorites at Miller's. And you can keep coming back every year

until they celebrate their 100th anniversary. No other Lancaster restaurant can make that claim! Miller's Smorgasbord is at the intersection of Ronks Road and Route 30, or 2811 Lincoln Highway East, Ronks, for those using a GPS. For more information and call ahead seating, 717.687.6621. www.Millers1929.com 

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The story of New Holland goes back to well before the founding of our nation. The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. Besides religious freedom and a peaceful existence, English Quaker William Penn offered cheap land to settlers in the New World.

The village founders were German, not Dutch. They were surrounded by English and Welsh Quakers, Episcopalians, a few Swiss-German Mennonites and some Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The Amish arrived later.

The town was once known as New Design. But in 1802, when a post office was established between Leola and the tavern at Blue Ball, an official name was necessary. There was no dissension to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them when they fled persecution and sought religious freedom in America.

Today, travelling along Route 23, visitors often find themselves sharing the road with Amish buggies. 

Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall

(Continued from Page 6.)

Let me begin by listing just some of the things I found roaming the aisles.... glassware, fine China, sterling, jewelry, coins, books postcards, linens, holiday collectibles, kitchenware, primitives, advertising, and pottery. There's one of the largest selections of old tools, mining equipment, Pennsylvania Railroad, firefighting and automobile memorabilia.

The mall also claims one of the most extensive selections of vintage toys anywhere. That includes toys from the 1940's, 50's, and 60's, along with the finest collection of American Flyer and Lionel Trains in Lancaster County. Are you getting the idea that it's time to start thinking about holiday shopping!

Among the highlights for me were the Old Time General Store, the barber shop, ice cream parlor, hardware and drug stores, all filled with vintage merchandise which isn't just for display, as in a museum, but is actually for sale. You can take a virtual tour for yourself at www.CackleberryFarmAntiqueMall.com or call 717-442-8805 for more information.

As a bonus, on property you will also find Not Just Baskets. As its name suggests, this

Continued on Page 10.

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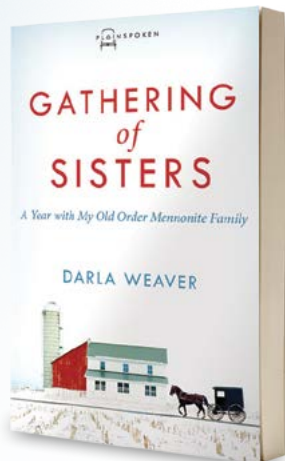
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Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall

(Continued from Page 8.)

luxury, specialty gift store offers more than just baskets, although there certainly is a wide variety of quality baskets of all sizes, shapes, and colors.

A basket brimming with goodies for a friend or loved one is always a great gift idea. The staff at Not Just Baskets can help you fill a basket, wrap it, and top it with a bow, ready to give. Or you can gather all your own items, choose your basket, and purchase the straw, cello bag, and ribbon to do it yourself.

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Call 717.442.2600 or explore for yourself at www.NotJustBasketsOfCackleberryFarm.com. Remember, the Holidays are just around the corner! 

STRASBURG – TRAINS & HERITAGE



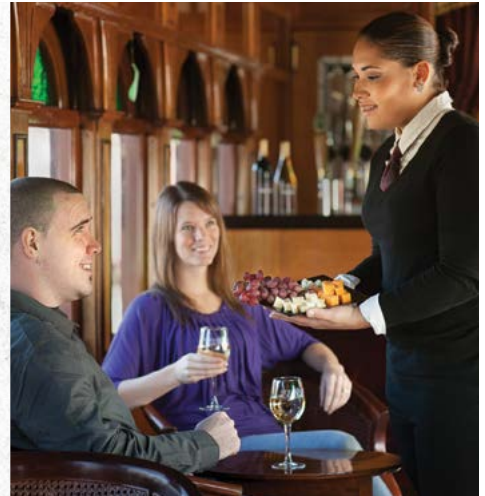
A ride on the historic Strasburg Rail Road, pulled by an authentic steam locomotive, is a "must do" for visitors to Amish Country. Photo Credit: Donna Gingrich

Named for the city in France, Strasburg is often referred to as "Train Town." In the 1700's, the village was on major commercial wagon routes. In the 1850's, a rail line connecting it with the Philadelphia and Columbia main line near Paradise helped keep the town's commerce active. And a hundred years later, to save the steam locomotives from demise, a group of local enthusiasts turned to passengers and visitors to keep America's oldest short-line running as the now famous Strasburg Rail Road. Not surprisingly, Strasburg is now home to several wonderful train related attractions. All aboard! 🚂

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Legendary Dutch Haven Shoofly

By Brad Igou

Arriving in Lancaster from the east on Route 30, you can't miss the iconic windmill of Dutch Haven, with its revolving arms beckoning travelers to venture inside.

Dutch Haven opened, without the windmill, in the early 1920's, but it wasn't until 1946 that its life as a full service restaurant officially began. Shoo-fly pies were virtually unknown until the restaurant opened. But, thanks to Dutch Haven, the fame of the unusual signature Amish Country dessert grew, and the windmill was soon added.

Tourism first surfaced in Lancaster in the 1940s and 50s, and more visitors from the east stopped in to try the pie with the odd name.

The restaurant's past has been an evolving one. By the 1990's the interior had become a craft cooperative. Fortunately, the shoo-fly pies that were the key to Dutch Haven's fame continued to be made with the same top secret recipe.

Today the store is bursting with crafts, souvenirs, hex signs, collectibles, and a cornucopia of 10,000 gift items! And to this day, when you pass through the doorway, you'll be encouraged to try a free sample of "America's best shoo-fly pie." For hours and more information, see page 3. 🐷

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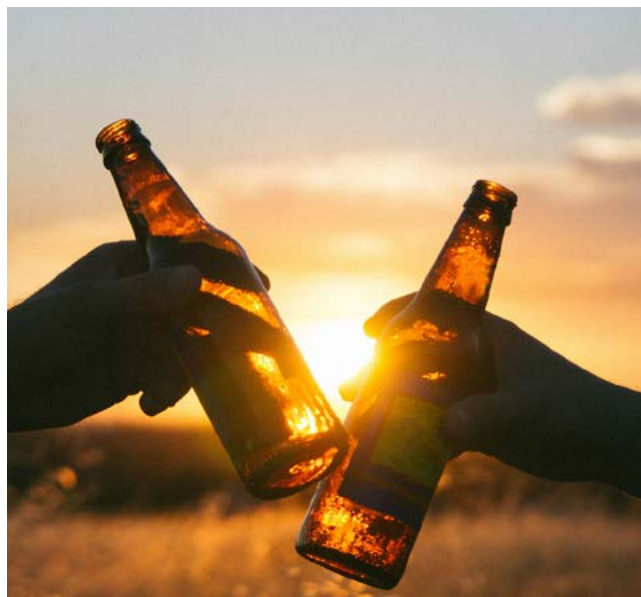
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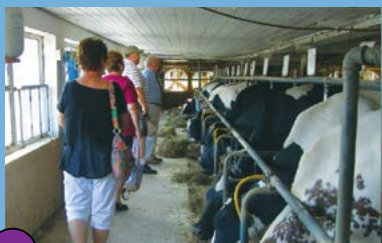
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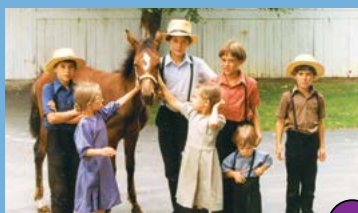
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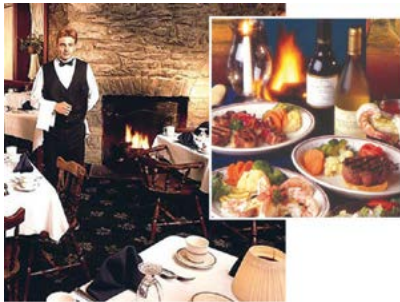
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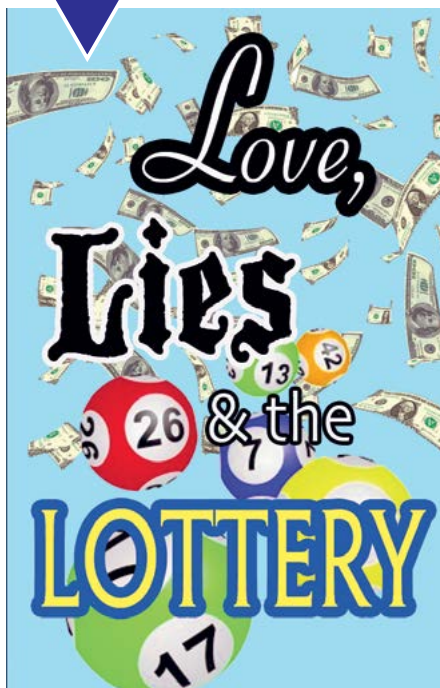
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On the Cover: The Art of Cheryl Ann McNulty

Special to AMISH COUNTRY NEWS



Cheryl Ann McNulty's artwork, again gracing this month's cover of Amish Country News ranges from whimsical to realistic, with all of her images sharing a common theme --- to inspire and uplift. Her paintings focus mostly on nostalgic images, pastel portraits, Christmas, angels, and Amish children.

Cheryl's love for the Amish culture began in 1973 with a family trip to Lancaster, PA. The peacefulness and beauty of the landscape and the Amish lifestyle left vivid memories that made her return again and again. Since 1985, Cheryl and her family have visited Lancaster almost every year, and also became good friends with a local Amish family. These many visits and personal experiences have afforded Cheryl to further connect and understand the Amish culture and traditions, allowing her to translate her love of Lancaster through her art.

Continued on Page 17.

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In Beautiful Paradise Lancaster County Pennsylvania



On the Cover

(Continued from Page 15.)

You can purchase Cheryl's prints, notecards, journals, and other assorted items where "art and inspiration come together"

Cheryl's artwork often depicts Amish children doing their daily "chores."

at her Etsy online store at www.etsy.com/shop/cherylmcnultyart. Visit her blog and learn more about her artwork at www.cherylmcnulty.wordpress.com and The Art of Cheryl McNulty on Facebook. If you have any questions about her art or would like to discuss a special order, you can contact her at mcprop@cox.net. 



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THE TOWN OF INTERCOURSE

Very few towns in Amish Country are more famous than Intercourse. Even Harrison Ford was in town filming the movie "Witness" over 30 years ago. Since the early 1700's, the town was a stop on the Old Philadelphia Pike, connecting Lancaster with Philadelphia, with a tavern called "Cross Keys." In 1814, a real estate scheme based on changing the name to Intercourse failed. But the name stuck, signifying the intersection of roads and mingling of people in this quiet country village. By 1880, the town had a population of 280 and, as it still does today, a post office where visitors can get a postcard dated and stamped "Intercourse, PA."



Amish Quilt shops abound in the farmlands around Intercourse, PA. Photo credit: Charles Rehm

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Aaron & Jessica's Will Drive You Buggy

By Brad Igou

Thousands of visitors have enjoyed Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides at Plain & Fancy Farm, on Route 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Perhaps like you, I don't know much about horses, so I enjoyed reading the Q&A section on their website, and will share a few selections with you....

What kind of horses do you have? Buggy horses are usually two breeds, American Standardbred and American Saddlebred. Wagons are usually pulled by Draft Horses.

The horse looks skinny. Is it getting enough to eat? Many horses in top condition or racing show a little rib. They are real athletes and it doesn't necessarily mean they are not well fed.

Why is that horse bending his hind leg? Does it hurt? When a horse bends its hind leg, it is resting...just like you do when you lean on something and cross your legs. It doesn't mean it's hurt.

Why do horses chew on wood? Some horses seem to enjoy chewing on wood for the same reason people chew on gum. They

don't need vitamins and aren't hungry. They just like it.

How many years can you work a horse and how long do they live? Many horses can work well into their early 20's. Life expectancy is about 30 years old.

You can learn a lot more about horses (and the Amish) by taking a ride. Find all the details and coupons on the back cover of this issue, or at www.AmishBuggyRides.com. 



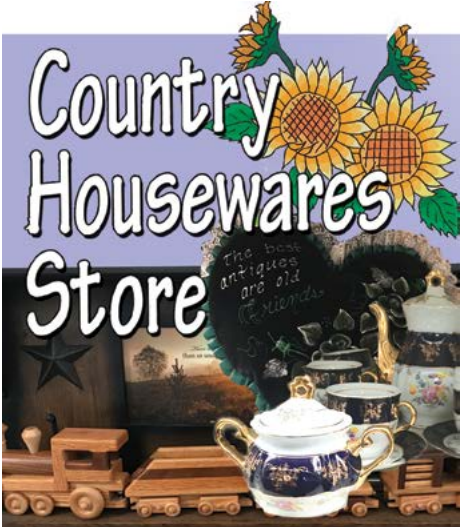
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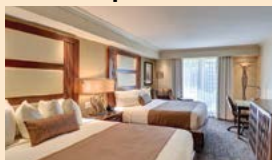
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Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen. Under the watchful eye of your certified guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why" of an ever-changing culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish. If you've seen the Amish portrayed on the various "Reality" TV shows, and you wonder what really is true and not true about the Amish, this is the tour you won't want to miss! We'll debunk myths about the Amish and provide accurate, respectful, and authentic information, just like we have done for over 50 years.

Duration: 1 ½ hours
Seven Days a Week
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Book Your Tickets Online and Save!

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Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County of Lancaster. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally enjoy a visit and chat with one of our Amish friends in their home. For details, see page 8.



April 2–October 31
Duration: 3 hours
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Departs 5 PM

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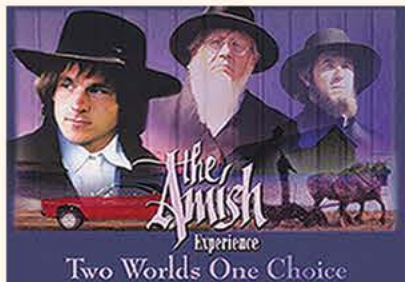
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Jacob's Choice at the Amish Experience Theater

Discover what it means to be Amish through magical story-telling as you become part of the emotional struggle of the Fisher family to preserve more than 400 years of Amish traditions. Five viewing screens, a unique barnyard setting, and special effects create a one-of-a-kind experience.

Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey down rarely traveled back country roads, deep into the farmlands, to discover the sights sought after by visitors. Gain insights into the hows and whys of an ever-changing culture from certified guides in 14-passenger mini-shuttles. Stops may include a roadside stand, quilt shop, country store or craft shop on an Amish farm.



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Visit-in-Person Tour

This officially designated "Heritage Tour" is a rare opportunity to meet and talk to the Amish personally. On this exclusive tour you will go right into the barn on an Amish farm at milking time, visit with an Amish artisan at his workplace, and then enjoy a personal visit and conversation right in an Amish home. Limited to 14 guests.

Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

Please see right hand page.



Buggy Rides

Aaron & Jessica's drivers are happy to share life stories and answer questions.

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www.PlainAndFancyFarm.com

www.AmishViewInn.com

www.AmishExperience.com

www.SmokehouseBBQandBrews.com



Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

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VILLAGE OF BIRD-IN-HAND



Fields as seen from Amish View Inn & Suites

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. Local legend suggests that the distinctive name of this

village comes from an inn thought to be as old as the Old Philadelphia-Lancaster Pike, now Route 340.

The Pike became a well-established route of transportation for those traveling west from Philadelphia in the 1700s. Inns were built every few miles as convenient rest stops for travelers, waggoneers, and their animals. These inns were identified with signs hanging from a pole or attached to the side of the building. The story goes that as the Pike was being laid out, two road surveyors had a discussion. Should they stop at their

present location or go on to Lancaster to spend the night? One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The other surveyor agreed with this suggestion, and both remained at what became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, with the story later memorialized with a sign depicting a man with a bird in his hand and nearby two birds perched in a bush.

A lot has changed since 1734, but visitors today can still expect friendly shopkeepers, homegrown Lancaster County foods, and restful lodging for weary travelers. 

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Dutch Apple's Rousing "Sister Act"

Reviewed by Brad Igou

Amish Country is a great destination for theater of all kinds, which often surprises first time visitors. And Dutch Apple has been a favorite of both locals and groups for over 30 years. Some of their shows are even making national tours. But only one show was opening this year in time for me to write a review, and that show was *SISTER ACT*, billed as "A Divine Musical Comedy."

Most readers are familiar with the movie, starring Whoopi Goldberg, as lounge singer, Deloris Van Cartier. She witnesses a murder and needs to hide out with some nuns. The church, Queen of Angels, which is at the point of being sold, has a choir of nuns who can't sing worth a darn... until Deloris arrives. They get so good, that attendance picks up and the gangsters figure out Deloris is one of the singing nuns.

The musical version of the movie has songs by Alan Menken, known for a whole

Continued on Page 25.



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Tickets at (800) 790-4069 or Bird-in-Hand.com.

"Sister Act" (Continued from Page 24.)

series of Disney films, including THE LITTLE MERMAID, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, NEWSIES, and ALADDIN. And you can tell he had fun writing a more contemporary set of songs, since the story takes place in 1977 in Philadelphia during the disco craze. The score was nominated for a Tony in 2011, and has a respectable 20 musical numbers.

While this show has a solid libretto and songs, as with any live performance, the show will rise or fall based on the actors.

Kimberly Oliver creates her own interpretation of the lead, with a commanding stage presence and a powerhouse voice. She is irreverent, as is called for, but remains likeable throughout. Her confrontations with a disapproving Mother Superior, played by Jama Bowen, are well acted, as each struggles in her own way with the clash of sacred and profane.

I also enjoyed how each of the ten nuns established her own character through mannerisms and voice, not an easy task when everyone is dressed in black singing "all the world's your oyster when you're living in a cloister." As Deloris kicks the choir into gear and they find their "inner disco," you will find it impossible not to tap your feet to the high octane chorus numbers... "Raise Your Voice," "Take Me to Heaven," and "Sunday Morning

Fever" are standouts. I like to think of SISTER ACT as the musical NUNSENSE meeting disco queen Donna Summer.

But there are also several subplots woven into the story, from a young nun questioning "The Life I Never Led," to a high school friend, Sweaty Eddie, now a cop trying to protect her.

At the end of the show, the audience cheered, gave a standing ovation, and was

literally dancing in the aisles together with the cast.

So dig out your bell bottoms and sequins and get thee to the nunnery, or at least to Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, 510 Centerville Road, west of Lancaster City. Shows run through November 10. You can get tickets by calling 717.898.1900 or online at www.DutchApple.com. 



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Several years ago, I started working on a second volume of THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, my book compiled from Amish writings in "Family Life" magazine. Since then, for many reasons, my project of producing "Volume 2" remains in limbo. Nevertheless, because I had begun to read and compile articles, I have decided to share some of them with you again this year as a continuation of my 2017 Amish Series.

The Amish in Their Own Words

Vol. 2 – Part 13 • • • by Brad Igou

This month's selections give a unique "insider's" look into the minds of the Amish. It's the kind of thing one doesn't read in "academic" books. First, thoughts about attending a church service. Ministers, chosen by lot, continue with their work and family duties, but have the added responsibility to administer to their "flock."

The short poem at the end is another "look inside," this time from a mother.



"That the Sheep Might Be Fed"

(by One of the Sheep)

With a sigh, Alvin Yoder slipped to his knees. Lying awake in bed, the burden on his heart had threatened to overwhelm him. So he resorted once more to the one thing that would bring relief --- prayer.

Tomorrow it was to be his turn to preach the main sermon. What would he say? What did God want him to say?

It was Sunday morning and the deacon had finished reading the chapter. With a prayer in his heart, Alvin stood up to speak. Earnestly, he encouraged and admonished.

Ervin Miller sat with bowed head and uplifted heart. His wife lay ill in a hospital many miles away. The past week had been long and discouraging. Now the minister's words felt like a tonic on his anxious heart. They would take him through the weeks ahead.

Hannah Bontrager was also drinking in the encouraging words. She was discovering that life as a schoolteacher could be very taxing. But now as she listened to the words tumbling from Alvin's lips, new hope and courage sprang to life. She would take one day at a time, trusting in God's help.

Alvin not only encouraged, he also warned. Young folks sat up soberly, challenged to face life more seriously and to seek God while He was still to be found. More than one person was smitten by the realization of some sin in their lives. In repentance, they vowed to make their wrongs right and to begin afresh.

But not everyone was favorably impressed with the sermon. In fact, some persons in the audience heard very little of it. Head-nodders disgraced the room. Ammon King felt guilty as he shook himself half-awake. He had worked so hard the past week. Maybe that justified being sleepy now. Soon he was nodding again.

Kathy Beachy wasn't particularly sleepy, but she found it difficult to concentrate on a sermon with the boys sitting in full view before her. The excitement of fancying herself in love dulled her spiritual hunger.

Her neighbor Martha Mullet seemed to be a meek, humble girl with her plain dress and quiet smile. Few people guessed the emotional upheaval going on within her. Her thoughts went to her dear brother Eric, who had left home half a year earlier. Would he have gone if Alvin hadn't been so harsh with him? Was it any wonder she couldn't forgive him?

There were others who also got little spiritual nourishment from the day's sermon. They didn't stop to realize they were the ones at fault; that it was their ill feelings that kept them from hearing the message God wanted them to hear. Many were too engrossed in criticizing the man to realize that the message did not come from him, but from God. And in so doing they rejected Him, not the poor, weak human they thought they were rejecting.

They had all come to the same laden table. Some went home filled, strengthened and challenged. The sermon had been just the

encouragement they needed. Others had come to the same table, yet were going home unfed. The food had not been to their liking. Or they were offended by the minister who served the food and that spoiled their appetite.

Alvin Yoder had come to church that morning with a burden on his heart, and when he drove home that afternoon with his family, part of the burden was still there. Was there anything he could do about it?

• • •

Half Past Five

(Ontario mother)

There're flashcards on the counter
And crayons in the cup;
His scissors have been busy,
So the floor needs sweeping up.
The puzzle's on the breadbox
And books are piled up high.
The playthings now lie idle;

Our boy is "half past five."
He gladly does what I suggest;
As soon as he is done
He says, "I really cannot think
Of anything that's fun."

And so once more I search my mind
For things I might have missed.
I mix a batch of play dough
And add it to my list.

The string of beads which broke, I sort.
The larger ones he can string.
I buy more glue and from the store
A wallpaper book I bring.

I read to him and show him how
To print his name and age.
I make up schoolwork he can do
On the back of a calendar page.

We use catalogs from the mailbox
And boxes large and small.
There are letters on the blackboard

That hangs upon the wall.
I cherish this last winter
That our oldest boy is here.
To share with us the pleasant times
Of our family dear. 🐎

Next Month: Christmas Musings

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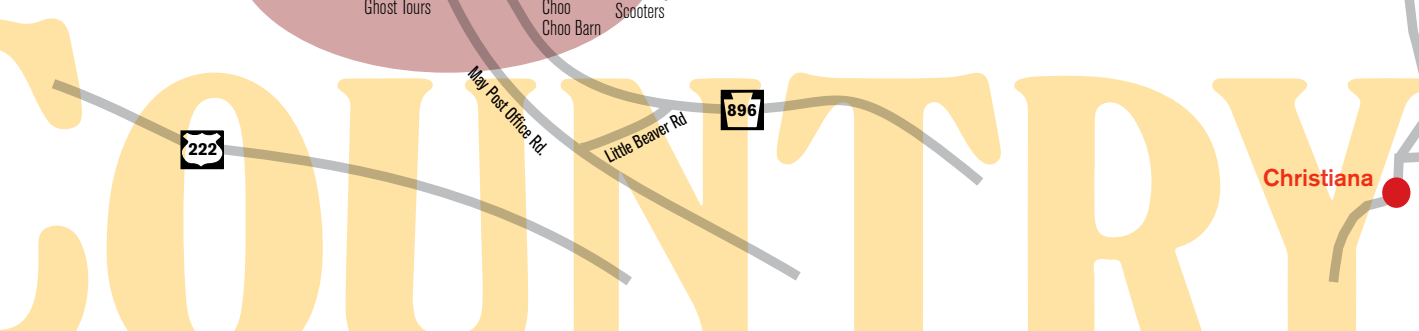


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PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

On Being Humble

By Brad Igou

Humility is a core Amish value. It is the opposite of prideful. The Amish understand that "self-promotion" can lead one to being conceited, boastful, and even disrespectful of others. Avoiding pride manifests itself in different ways among the Amish. It's why make-up and jewelry find no place in the culture and explains, in part, the reason personal photographs are not allowed.

One Amishman wrote, "Dust we are, to dust we shall return. Why frame and embellish and hang on the wall pictures of this house of clay in which we live? Let us beware, lest we permit self to be exalted..." Of course, the plain, uniform way of dress of the Amish eliminates a preoccupation with fashion, style, trends, and showing off.

SIDEBAR: I just saw that reality television personality, model, and entrepreneur Kylie Jenner has \$1,000,000 in handbags! Seriously? She proudly gives us a tour of her handbag closet on YouTube, touting some as good investments. She even singles out the one she'd rescue if her house was on fire. Since her net worth is at least \$900 million dollars, I'm guessing one million is a drop in the bucket.

The media and the internet have heightened the preoccupation for popularity among peers, how many "likes" one gets from a post, bullying, etc. Imagine the concern of the Amish over the "smart phone" and its pervasive influence in modern life, and the reality that some Amish youth actually have Facebook pages.

I'd like to relate a personal experience with humility that happened to me back in the 1970's. I was invited to visit an Amish one-room school. (Remember, these schools are for grades one through eight, and usually have just one teacher.)

At some point it was announced that games would be played, I assumed mainly for my benefit. I was encouraged to play along, but declined. I was a recent college graduate, "highly educated," and sure that my playing school games with elementary kids would be downright unfair.

"Oh, no," said the teacher. "Whenever we have visitors, we do games, and the scholars want you to play along. So please..." Guessing they might want to see how fast a non-Amish visitor could answer the questions, I decided to participate.

The first game was "Backward Spelling." The teacher spelled a word backwards, and waited to see who was first to shout out the answer. For example, "Y-O-T" is "toy."

When we got to the longer words, like "K-R-O-W-E-M-O-H" and "S-E-I-R-R-E-B-W-A-R-T-S," the children were consistently besting my efforts. But, perhaps justifying my losing record, I thought to myself, "Who cares about spelling words backwards?" And then came the next game...

"Rapid Calculation" was obviously a classroom favorite. These students had no calculators, of course, nor were they writing the numbers on paper. This was done "in your head." And so the teacher began reading the first problem...

$$8 + 3 - 2 / 3 = ?$$

I was a bit taken aback when several students immediately shouted, THREE!"

Okay, time to get serious. I was not about to be outdone by these Amish whippersnappers.

$$64 / 8 \times 5 / 10 \times 4 + 2 = ?$$

But I was way behind most of the kids with my "18."

As the numbers were rattled off by the teacher, I was left deep in the dust by the time we got to...

$$6 \times 6 / 4 \times 3 + 1 / 4 \times 2 - 2 / 4 + 9 - 10 = ?$$

And, thus ended my first "humbling" experience in the world of the Amish.

The purpose of any education is to prepare one with the skills needed to proceed through life. The Amish school was no doubt doing that. My college education did the same for me, as different as the two educational settings certainly were.

And so on that day, this summa cum laude graduate put aside his pride, and applauded the youngsters who, more importantly than winning those games, had taught him a lesson that he would forever remember and respect.

I'm still not very good at the Amish schoolroom games, but I assume you got the answer to that last calculation... "two." 



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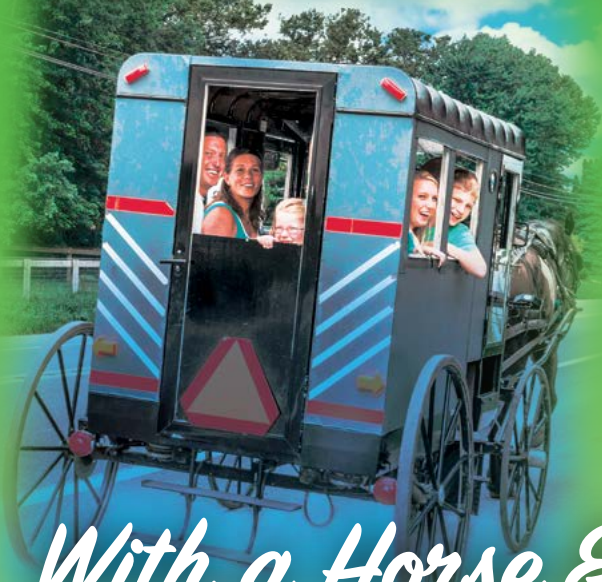
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